Montana Outdoors

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We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mythical concept of animals.... We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth.

—Henry Beston, *The Outermost House*, 1928

This 25th edition of the *Montana Outdoors* photo issue features the state's abundant and diverse fish and wildlife, the "other nations" residing in Montana that make this such a wonderful place to live and visit.

—Editor

Mountain goat

[illegible]

Red-winged blackbird

[illegible]

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Bighorn sheep
DUSAN SMETANA

White-tailed jackrabbit
JEFFREY RICH

Short-eared owl
DONALD M. JONES

Pronghorn does

CHUCK HANEY

Pronghorn buck and doe

TIM CHRISTIE

Pronghorn buck

CHUCK AND GAIL ROBBINS

[Blackfoot healers simultaneously] closed the hands, leaving the index finger extended and the thumb partly open, and in time to the music…alternately touched the wrappers with the tips of the left and right forefinger, the motions being quick and firm, and occasionally brought the hands to the side of the head, making the sign for the antelope, and at the same time uttering a loud "kuh" to represent the whistling or snorting of that animal.

Description of the Blackfeet Indians' "Song of the Antelope,"
Blackfoot Lodge Tales: the story of a prairie people

Cutthroat trout

PAUL E UPDIKE

Mayfly

MICHAEL J WOLF

Mountain bluebird

[illegible]

White-tailed prairie dogs

[illegible]

Badger

[illegible]

Short-tailed weasel

[illegible]

Northern flicker

[illegible]

Red fox

AUDUBON WANTLOK

Coyote

JAN C. NELSON

Coyote

ANDY LONG

Gray wolf

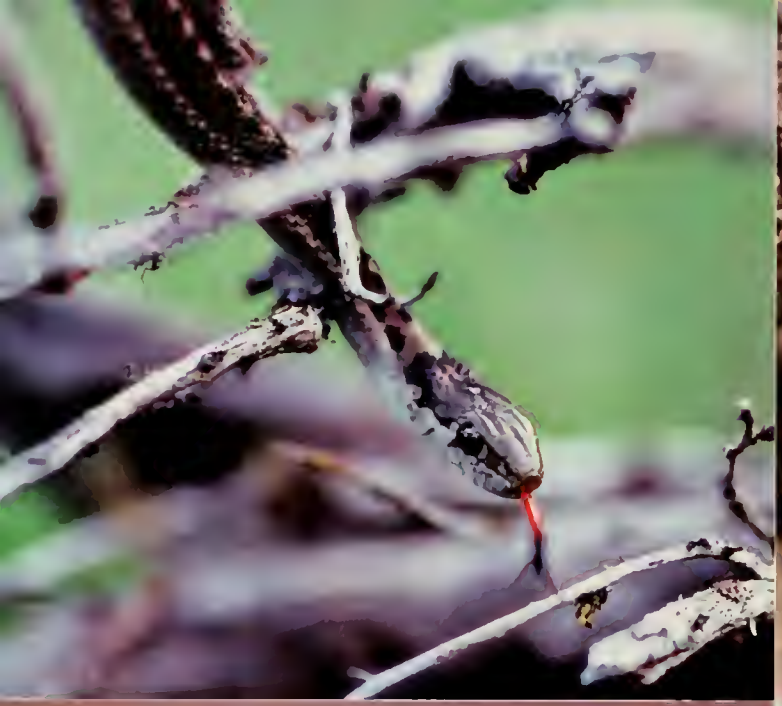
KERRY T. NICKOU

Sandhill cranes

DONALD M. JONES

Rufous hummingbird

BOB MARTINKA



Prairie rattlesnake

LIZ LEWIS

Western garter snake

MICHAEL HARING

Western toad

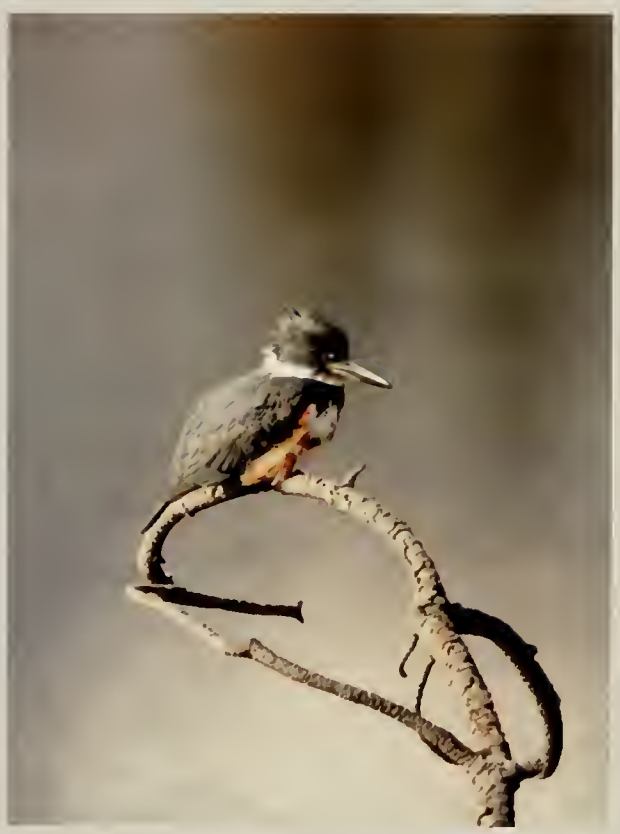
MIKE ANICH

Tiger salamander

RODNEY SCHLECHT

Bumblebee

ERIK PETERSEN



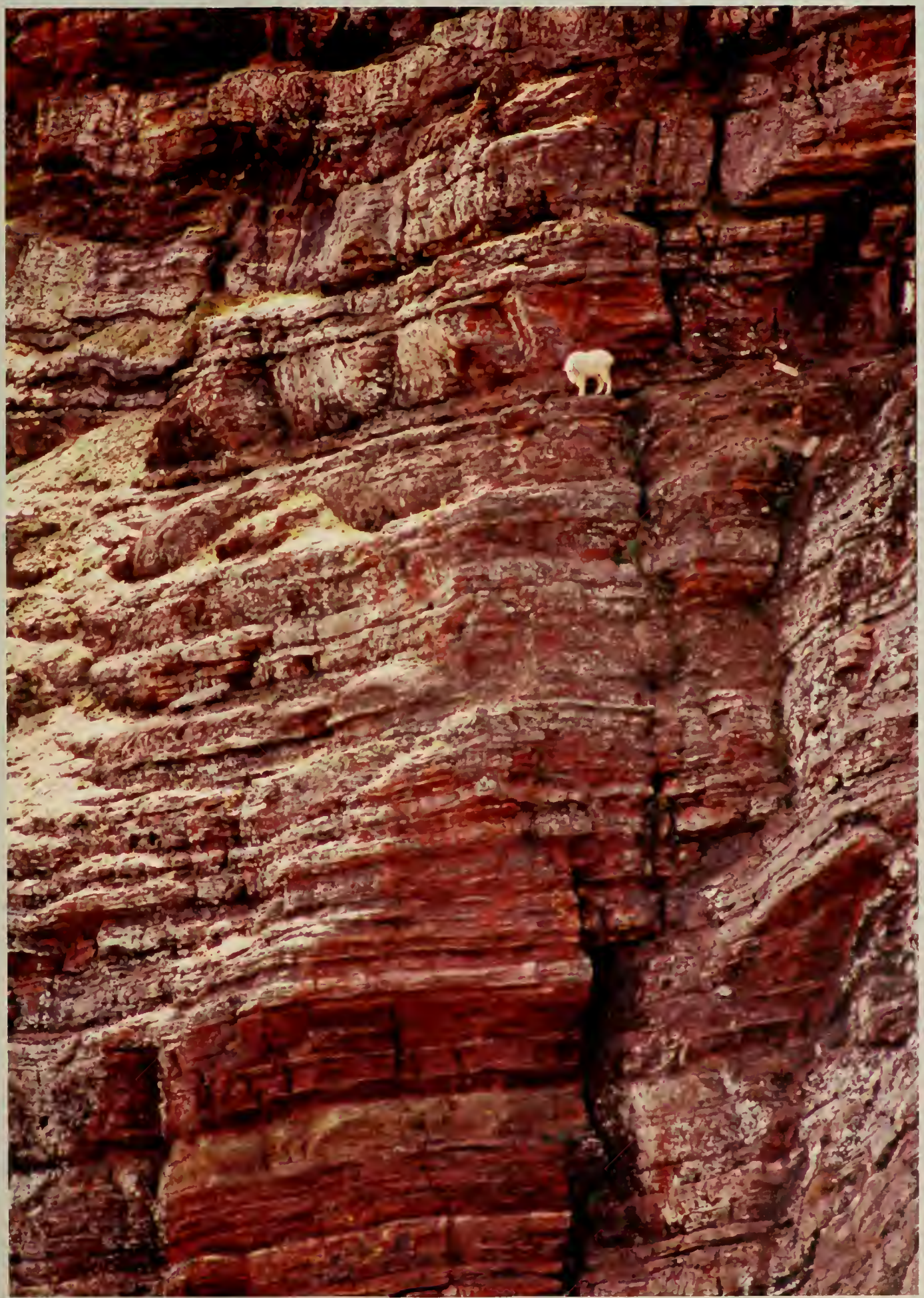
Belted kingfisher

Northern river otter

Bighorn sheep

Pika

Mountain goat



White-tailed ptarmigan

ALAN G. NELSON

Male white-tailed ptarmigan, breeding plumage

TOM J. ULRICH

Once, [Icelandic] legend has it, the plump, ground-dwelling ptarmigan and the fleet gyrfalcon hunter were sisters. They lived side by side, playfully tangling at times. One day, the gyrfalcon accidentally killed her sister without knowing it. When she realized what she had done, an anguished cry filled her throat and sprang from her beak, echoing across the land.

—*Nature* (PBS), "Iceland: Fire and Ice"

Rainbow trout

The land is so poor, a jackrabbit would need a thousand acres of pasture to feed himself, and still have to steal food to survive.

— Old Polish saying

White-tailed jackrabbit

GARY LEPPART

Sharp-tailed grouse

DONALD M. JONES

American dipper

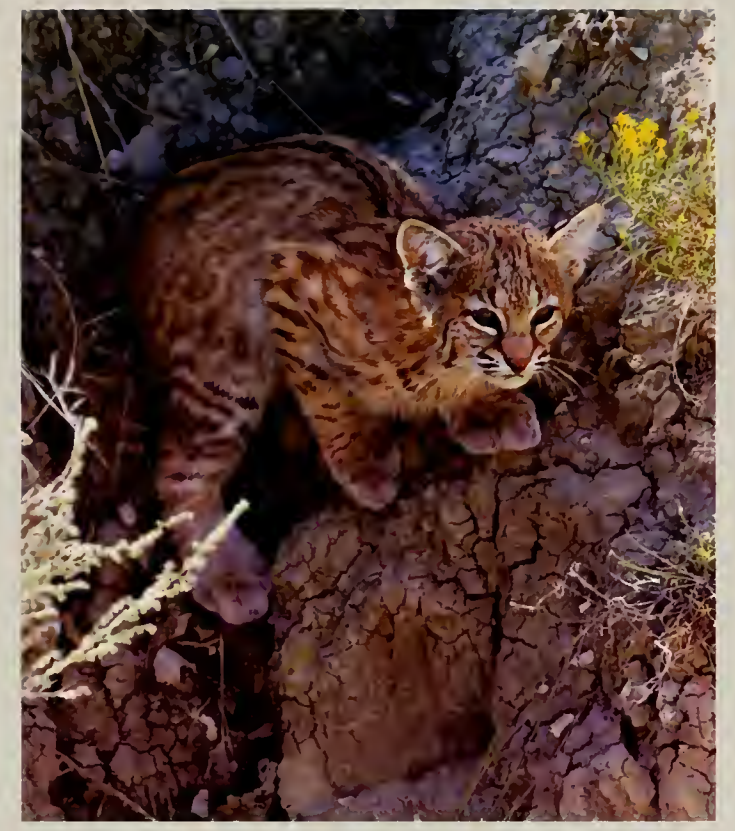
BOB MARTINKA

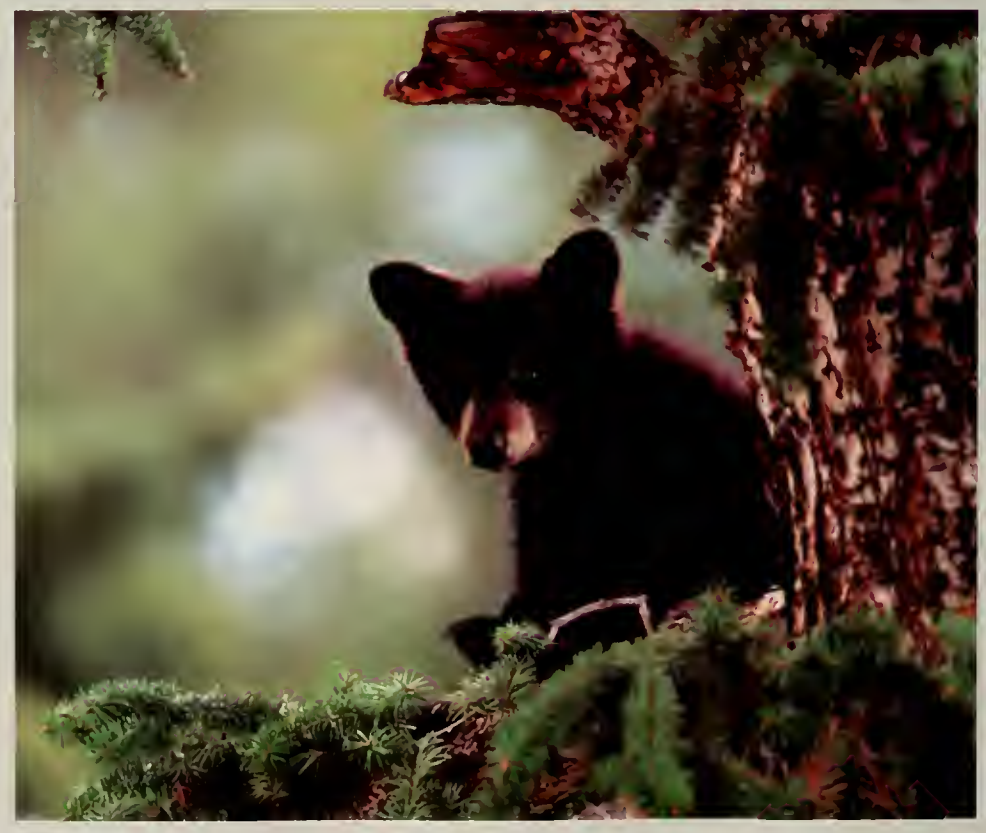
Snow geese

NICK FUCCI

Marbled godwit

RON BOGGS





Bobcat

[illegible]

Mountain goat

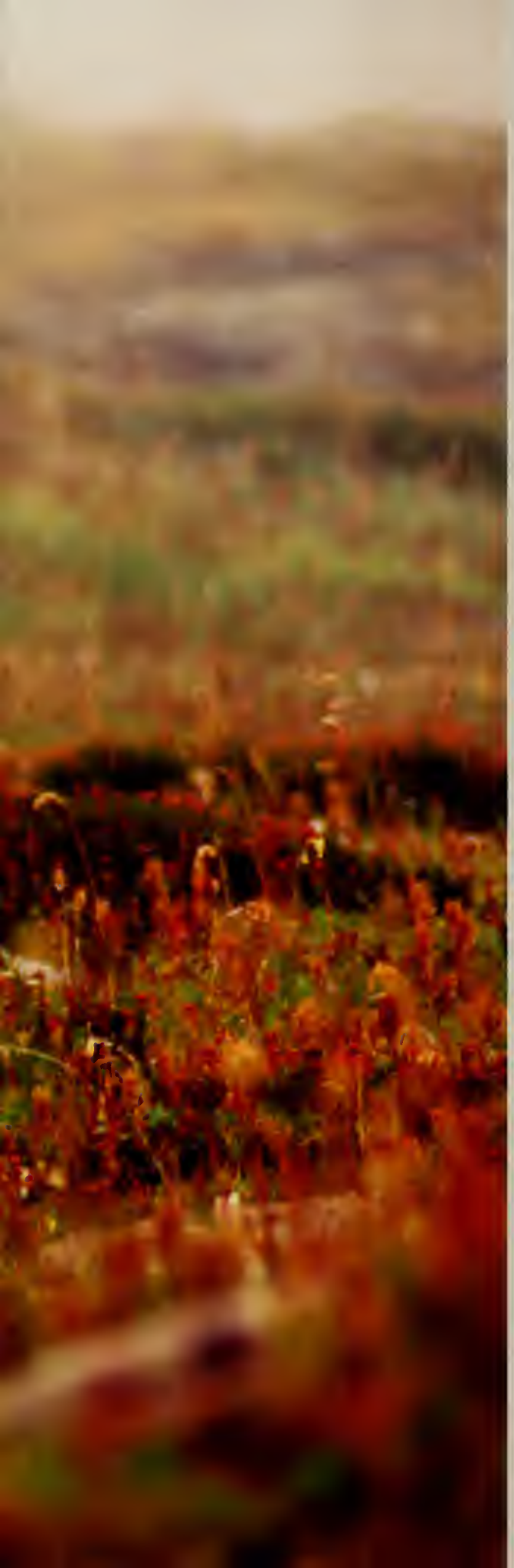
[illegible]

Black bear

[illegible]

White-tailed deer

[illegible]



American marten

CAROLE AND JOHN OLDEMEYER

Wolverine

KERRY [illegible]JR KOL

The wolverine is a tremendous character…. a personality of unmeasured force, courage, and achievement, but so enveloped in mists of legend, superstition, idolatry, fear, and hatred that one scarcely knows how to begin or what to accept as fact.

— Ernest Thompson Seton, *Lives of Game Animals*

Pumpkinseed

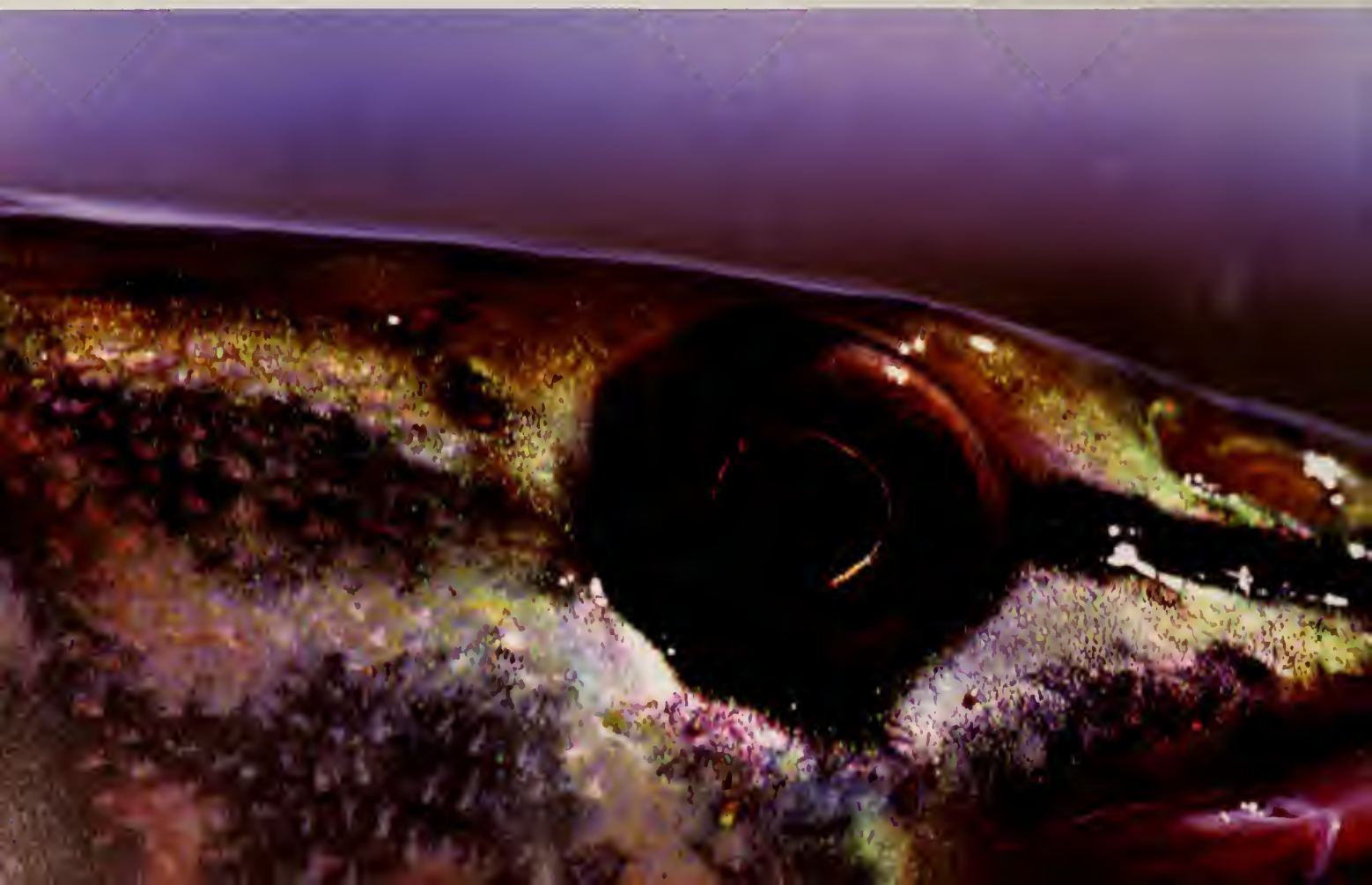
CRAIG AND LIZ LAPCOM

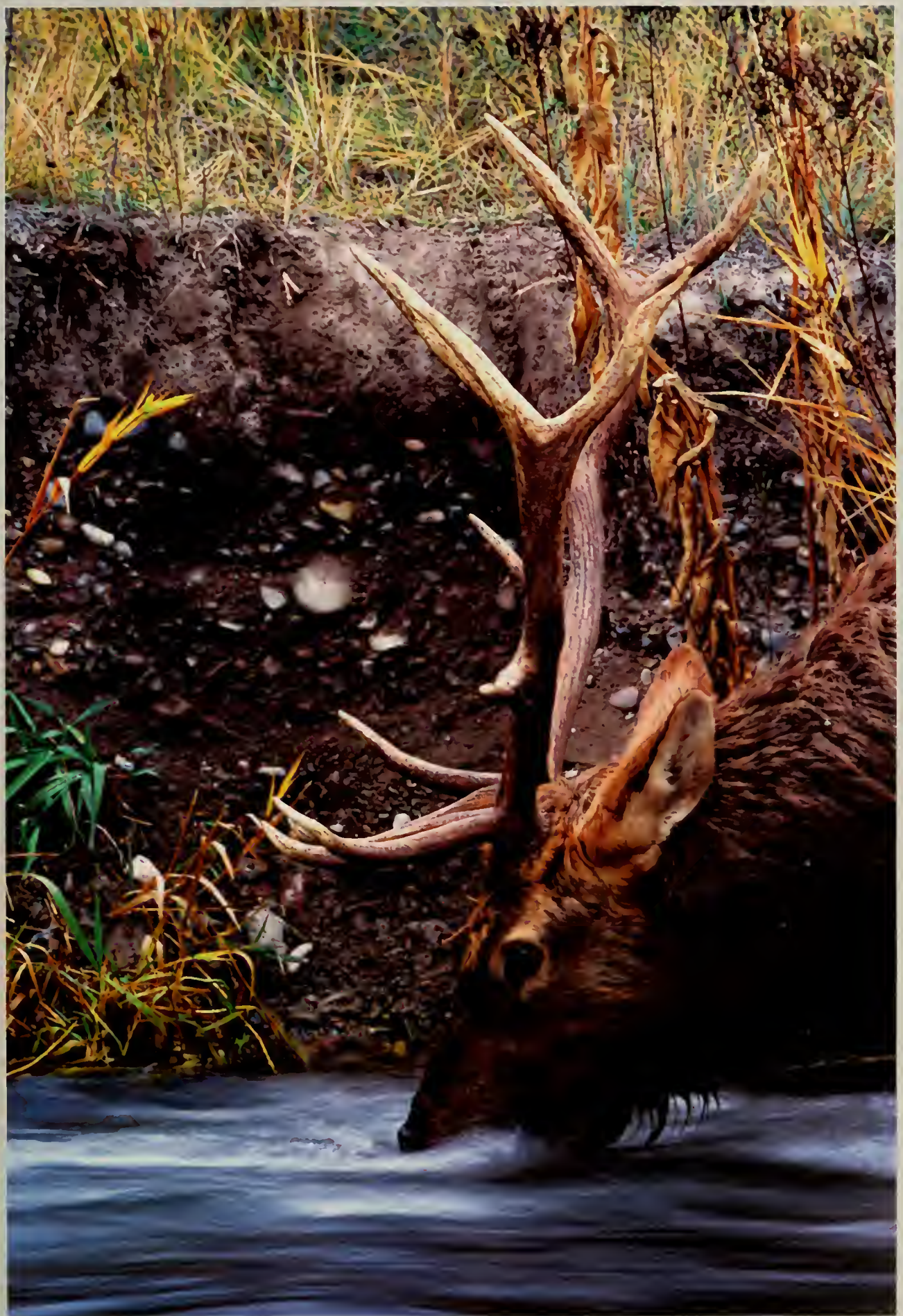
Northern pike

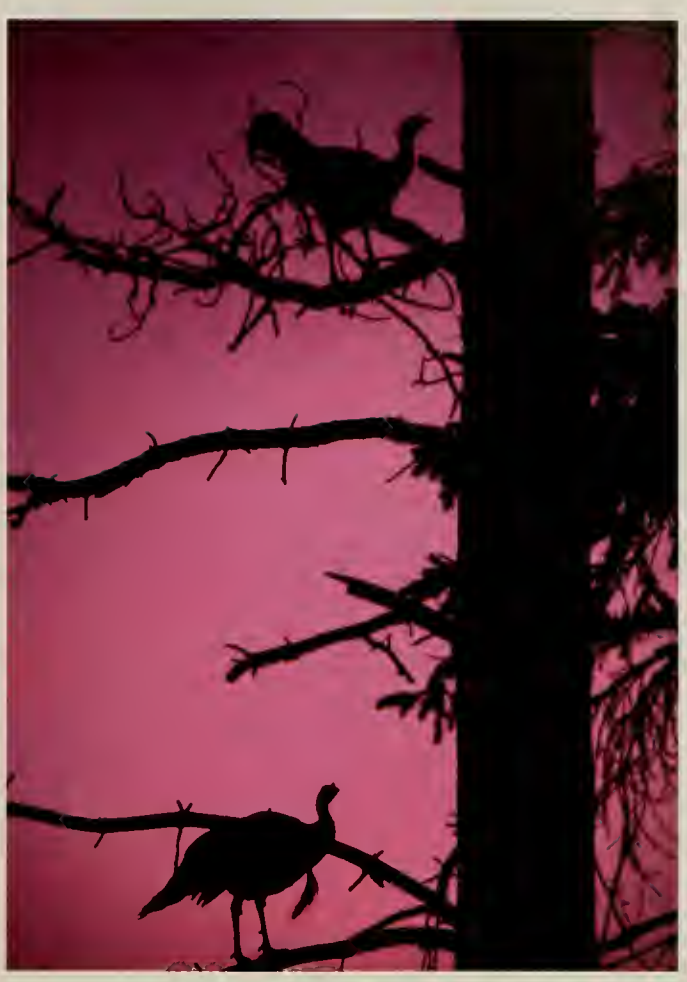
CRAIG AND LIZ LAPCOM

Elk

NELSON KENTER







Wild turkeys

DAVID E. BENNETT

Mule deer

JOHN [illegible]

In the hues of October sunsets, we see the portals to other mansions than those which we occupy.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

TALE'S END

Often mistaken for a "giant chipmunk," the golden-mantled ground squirrel is a mountain-dwelling mammal common in western Montana. About twice the size of a chipmunk, this ground squirrel builds up fat supplies to last through winter hibernation by feeding on seeds, wild fruits, and morsels it begs and steals from campers and hikers. Photo by Tim Christie.

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